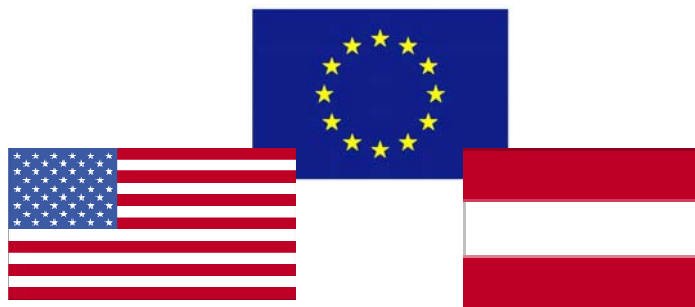


EU SPOTLIGHT

No. 7, June 2006



Österreich 2006 • Präsidentschaft der Europäischen Union
Austria 2006 • Presidency of the European Union
Autriche 2006 • Présidence de l'Union européenne



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U.S.-EU SUMMIT

U.S. Government Items

Post U.S.-EU Summit

Press Roundtable with Daniel Fried, Assistant Secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs

Washington, D.C., June 23, 2006

Assistant Secretary Fried: ... I'm going to start out with a bit of a retrospective to put this U.S.-EU Summit in context.

After President Bush's reelection, in fact two days after his re-election, in his first press conference afterward, he made an effort to reach out to Europe, if you recall that press conference. This was followed by Secretary Rice's trip to Europe, her first trip as Secretary of State, and the President's February '05 trip to NATO but also very significantly, as it turns out, to the European Council where he had a very productive session. ...

The President said in February 2005 that the United States wants a strong Europe, a strong European Union. He's said so repeatedly. He said he wanted such a strong Europe and a strong European Union as a partner in the world. ...



2006 U.S.-EU Summit

Fact Sheet

The White House, June 21, 2006

Presidential Action: Today, President Bush met with the leadership of the European Union, Austrian Chancellor and European Council President Wolfgang Schäussel and European Commission President José Barroso. The leaders spoke about concrete actions the U.S. and EU can take to:

- Promote the Advance of Freedom and Democracy Around the World;
- Advance Cooperation to Secure our Homeland and the World; and,
- Promote Transatlantic Economic Integration and Energy Security. ...

President and Mrs. Bush Participate in Roundtable with Foreign Students

Austrian National Library, Vienna, Austria, June 21, 2006

The President: ... I just want to assure you of one thing, that I believe that freedom is universal. I don't think freedom is just a right for American citizens, I don't think it's just a right for people who practice religion one way. I think it is the right of everybody, who lives everywhere. I believe that free societies end up yielding peace and hope. And that's the cornerstone of my foreign policy.

I've had to make some very difficult decisions, as you know, and I made the decisions based upon what I think is in the best interest of my country, the security of my country. But I also believe the decisions I have made will end up helping people realize the great blessings of liberty. I believe people ought to be able to worship freely, or not worship at all, but you're equally a citizen of the world. I believe that poverty and hopelessness in the spirit can be changed. I believe the United States has got an obligation to help others. ...



Press Briefing on U.S.-EU Summit

Judy Ansley, NSA Senior Director for European Affairs; and Faryar Shirzad, NSA Deputy National Security Advisor for International Economic Affairs

Vienna Hilton, Vienna, Austria, June 21, 2006

... Ms. Ansley: ...

They had a very good summit meeting today. As the President said at the Merchant Marine Academy, the alliance with Europe is a key pillar of our security strategy. I think the summit

meetings today showed that. There was a broad range of discussion on a variety of security issues. And I think it just reaffirmed the importance of our transatlantic relationship. The leaders spent time in a plenary session, as well as in a working lunch. And prior to that, they had a short restricted meeting They spent some time reviewing the accomplishments over the year -- over the course of the past year. And I think some of the key ones have been, obviously, cooperation on Iran, some of the democracy promotion initiatives that we worked on together, such as in Ukraine and Belarus, Middle East peace process, Iraq and Afghanistan, where the European Union is contributing quite a bit to both of those efforts. The President thanked them for that and urged them to do more to help the new democracies. ...

[United States and the European Union Renew Education Agreement \(pdf\)](#) **Fact Sheet, U.S. Department of State**

June 21, 2006

The United States and the European Union renewed a 1995 agreement to promote transatlantic higher education and vocational training cooperation.

At a meeting during the U.S.-EU summit in Vienna U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Austrian Foreign Minister Ursula Plassnik and European Union Commissioner for External Relations Benita Ferrero-Waldner signed the agreement extending transatlantic educational cooperation for eight more years. The agreement continues higher education and vocational training cooperation between the U.S. and the EU by fostering educational exchanges, strengthening the Fulbright-Schuman exchange program and encouraging collaboration between university and vocational institutions. ...

[Press Gaggle by Tony Snow and National Security Advisor Steve Hadley](#)

Aboard Air Force One, En route Vienna, Austria

June 20, 2006

Mr. Snow: ... The President tomorrow, the public schedule begins with a meeting with the President of Austria. There will also be a meeting with the Chancellor and a meeting with European Union leaders. For all those we will have stills and host TV at the top. There will be pool available for a U.S.-EU meeting; closed press U.S.-EU working lunch; a U.S.-EU press availability tomorrow afternoon.

Then the President will have a roundtable with foreign students, you guys are all kindly invited, also a tour of the National Library. And then off to the airport and to Budapest. So there you have your quick sort of line up. ...

[President Delivers Commencement Address at the United States Merchant Marine Academy](#)

Captain Tomb Field at Brooks Stadium, United States Merchant Marine Academy, Kings Point, New York

June 19, 2006

The President: ... To win the war on terror, we will continue to build and strengthen ties with our friends and allies across the world. America's alliance with Europe is a key pillar of our strategy for victory. And tomorrow, Laura and I will depart on my 15th trip to Europe since I have taken office. This visit comes at a critical moment for America and our allies. We have important decisions to make that will affect the prospects for peace and prosperity across the world. And today I'm going to talk to you about the objectives I will pursue on this important trip.

My first stop will be Vienna, where I will attend the annual summit between the United States and the European Union. And then I'm going to travel to Budapest to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Hungarian Revolution. And I'm really looking forward to the trip. Americans have strong ties to the European people. We have warm friendships with European nations. And on my trip this week, we will strengthen our close and growing partnership with the European Union.

America's partnership with the European Union grows from sturdy roots -- our common love of freedom, and our commitment to democratic principles....

[Press Briefing by the National Security Advisor, Steve Hadley, on the President's Trip to Europe](#)

The White House, June 15, 2006

Mr. Hadley: Good afternoon. On Tuesday, June 20, the President and Mrs. Bush will depart for Vienna, Austria, for this year's U.S.-EU summit. It will be followed by a visit to Budapest, Hungary, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 1956 Hungarian revolution. The trip is an opportunity to reaffirm the strong relationship between the United States and the European Union. The President has made clear that, in his words, "America supports a strong Europe because we need a strong partner in the hard work of advancing freedom in the world." This year's U.S.-EU summit will focus on three areas where we can cooperate to make a safer and better world: promoting freedom and democracy, enhancing security, and pursuing greater global prosperity. We are seeking to enhance cooperation in promoting democracy in the Middle East, Africa, Europe and Latin America. On the security front, the leaders will set priorities for U.S.-EU counterterrorism cooperation, particularly countering terrorist financing and efforts to prevent terrorist access to weapons of mass destruction....

U.S. Officials Detail U.S.-EU Cooperation in Advance of Summit **State Department's Volker cites "depth" of trans-Atlantic relationship**

Washington File, June 8, 2006

Washington -- The State Department's Kurt Volker sees the upcoming United States-European Union (EU) summit in Vienna, Austria, as an opportunity to demonstrate that the U.S.-EU partnership is the "most robust ... that we have ever had."

"At the time of the summit, our goal is to ensure that we are projecting publicly the full breadth of things we are doing together," said Volker during a press roundtable in Brussels, Belgium, May 31. "There is an awful lot of depth in the U.S.-EU partnership that is going very, very well." There is good trans-Atlantic cooperation, he said, on issues such as the promotion of democracy in the broader Middle East, Belarus, Burma, Ukraine, Zimbabwe and elsewhere; on container security and other counterterrorism and nonproliferation efforts; and on economic initiatives such as intellectual property rights protection. ...

TRANSCRIPT OF PRESS ROUNDTABLE with Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Kurt Volker and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Scott Carpenter, U.S. Mission to the EU, Brussels, Belgium, May 31, 2006

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Austrian Government Items

Federal Chancellor Schüssel: EU and USA are partners for prosperity and democracy

Press release, June 21, 2006

The President of the European Council, Federal Chancellor Wolfgang Schüssel, the President of the United States of America, George W. Bush, and the President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso, briefed the press on the results of the EU-US Summit which took place today in Vienna.

"We had a very fruitful and positive summit touching on a broad range of subjects. We touched on foreign policy issues such as the situation in Iran, Iraq and the Balkans, we spoke about the economic ties between Europe and the US and we also touched on environmental issues. We were able to agree common goals, particularly in the field of energy policy and the protection of intellectual property rights. We supported the USA in the fight against terrorism and in the protection of human rights. We may have different approaches in some respects, but that should never overshadow the depth and quality of our relations", Schüssel said. ...

Plassnik: "EU and USA - partners with global responsibility"

Foreign Minister Ursula Plassnik at the EU-US Summit in Vienna

Press release, June 21, 2006

"The USA and Europe can look back on a long shared history. We have a lot to thank each other for, and have enormous tasks with a great deal of joint responsibility ahead of us", said Council President and Foreign Minister Ursula Plassnik at today's summit, in the course of which she met with President George W. Bush and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

"Europe and America form a strong and sustainable community of values and interests. We fully realise that we are indispensable partners for each other. A mature partnership now binds us

together and enables us to frequently broach subjects on which we hold different views”, stated Plassnik. ...

[Bartenstein: Dialogue on US-EU economic relations extremely important](#)

Bartenstein at the Transatlantic Business Dialogue (TABD) in the Federation of Austrian Industry

Press release, June 21, 2006

"Ninety nine per cent of trade relations between the USA and the European Union are totally unproblematic, and we want to clear away the problems with the remaining one per cent. The Transatlantic Business Dialogue provides an excellent forum for this purpose", Minister for Economics and Labour Martin Bartenstein, President of the EU Council, said at a joint press conference with Martin Broughton (co-chairman of the TABD and chairman of British Airways), Michael Klein (co-chairman of the TABD and CEO Global Banking of Citigroup), Günther Verheugen (Vice-President of the European Commission), Peter Mandelson (EU Commissioner for External Trade), David Sampson (US Deputy Secretary of Commerce) and Veit Sorger (President of the Federation of Austrian Industry and Vice-President of UNICE) on the occasion of the Transatlantic Business Dialogue (TABD) at the Federation of Austrian Industry. ...

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EU Items

[EU-US Strategic Energy Cooperation](#) (pdf)

European Union Fact Sheet, June 2006

Energy is vital for economic development. Ensuring security of energy supply, developing competitive markets and meeting the environmental challenges are at the top of the EU and US political agendas. The EU and the US agreed to develop a strategic cooperation on energy and energy security. This cooperation will contribute to increased regional stability, greater security of supply and finally, new business opportunities to our mutual advantage. ...

[Air Transport Agreement](#) (pdf)

European Union Fact Sheet, June 2006

The EU's ultimate goal is to establish an "Open Aviation Area" (OAA) between the European Union and the United States. The intention would be to combine the deregulated US domestic market with the liberalised EU single market to create a free trade area in air transport. ...

[Bilateral Economic Relations](#) (pdf)

European Union Fact Sheet, June 2006

The two biggest economies in the world have plenty to talk about at the summit when it comes to taking action to create greater prosperity and jobs to benefit citizens in the years to come. EU-US to agree joint Action Strategy on IPR enforcement at the summit. Protecting intellectual property rights to promote innovation, employment, and competition is a fundamental economic imperative shared by the EU and the US. Both sides intend to agree at this summit a Joint Action Strategy for the enforcement of intellectual property rights in third countries with concrete actions strengthening cooperation to reduce global piracy and counterfeiting and fostering public-private ownerships to protect intellectual property. This initiative will both increase the effectiveness of the initiatives pursued by both parties and enable joint actions when considered appropriate. The EU and the US are together in the fight against the theft of intellectual property which seriously injure our most modern, innovative, and quality driven industries and entail significant health and safety risks for consumers. ...

[EU-U.S. Agreement on Higher Education and Vocational Training](#) (pdf)

European Union Fact Sheet, June 2006

EU-US cooperation in higher education and vocational training aims for greater understanding between the peoples of the European Union and those of the United States of America, including broader knowledge of each other's languages, cultures and institutions, as well as to improve the quality of human resource development in both the EU and in the US. A new 8-year agreement will be signed at the EU-US Summit on 21 June 2006. ...

[Visa Reciprocity](#) (pdf)

European Union Fact Sheet, June 2006

While American citizens can travel throughout the EU without visa, the United States imposes a visa obligation on nationals of 10 EU Member States: Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Greece, Malta and Cyprus. The US declares that those countries do not satisfy all the criteria necessary for a country's acceptance into the US Visa Waiver Programme (main criteria are visa refusal rate and overstay – fluctuations of the first one are in the hands of the US and most statistical data on calculating the overstay rate are imperfect). ...

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Joint Documents

[President Bush Participates in Press Availability at 2006 U.S.-EU Summit](#)

Zeremoniensaal Hall, Hofburg Palace,
Vienna, Austria

June 21, 2006

... President Bush: Mr. Chancellor -- I call him, Wolfgang; he calls me, George W. -- Jose, it's good to see you. Thank you very much for your hospitality. I also want to thank President Fischer for his hospitality, as well. I've really been looking forward to this trip. I have never been to your beautiful country. I need to come back. It is -- and your hospitality has been grand. I really appreciate it a lot.

We did have a very engaged and fruitful conversation, as we should. We're close partners in peace and prosperity. I've always believed that when America and the EU work together, we can accomplish big deeds. And this world needs us to work together, because there's a lot of challenges.

We talked about democracy and new democracies, and I want to thank the European Union for its strong support of Afghanistan and Iraq. Look, I fully understand we've had our differences on Iraq, and I can understand the differences. People have strong opinions on the subject. But what's past is past, and what's ahead is a hopeful democracy in the Middle East. And I want to thank your leadership, both of your leaderships, on this important issue. ...



[Vienna Summit Declaration](#) (pdf)

June 21, 2006

We, the leaders of the European Union (EU) and the United States of America (U.S.), met today in Vienna to respond to the concerns of our citizens for peace, security, stability and prosperity in an increasingly globalised world.

We welcome that over the past year our Transatlantic Partnership has delivered real results as shown by the political and economic Progress Reports we issued today. We remain committed to finding common or complementary lines of action in many areas. Over the last year there have been many examples of how productive our relationship is, in the Middle East, Iran, the Western Balkans, Belarus, on the frozen conflicts, and Sudan, as well as in our efforts to promote transatlantic trade and investment under last Summit's Economic Initiative.

We have decided to further strengthen our strategic Partnership by adopting a number of priority actions to support our cooperation in the following four areas:

- Promoting peace, human rights and democracy worldwide;
- Confronting global challenges, including security;
- Fostering prosperity and opportunity;
- Promoting strategic cooperation on energy and energy security, climate change and sustainable development. ...

[2006 EU-U.S. Summit Progress Report on Political and Security Issues](#) (pdf)

June 21, 2006

Overall, our relationship has continued to develop in a very positive way in the follow up to the 2005 Summit. We have “put the relationship to work” by concentrating on specific issues. More effective dialogue, often in advance of policy formulation, has led to convergence on some key issues.

We can identify genuine progress in several areas, including those targeted by the joint declarations adopted at the 2005 Summit. ...

[2006 EU-U.S. Summit Progress Report on the Economic Initiative pdf\)](#)

June 21, 2006

Following the commitment at the 2004 Dromoland Summit to further transatlantic economic integration, the June 2005 EU-U.S. Summit launched the “Initiative to Enhance Transatlantic Economic Integration and Growth”. This covers regulatory and standards cooperation, open and competitive capital markets, innovation and the development of technology, trade, travel and security, energy efficiency, protection of intellectual property rights, investment, competition policy and enforcement, procurement and services. A joint EU-U.S. Work Programme to implement the Initiative was welcomed at the informal EU-U.S. Economic Ministerial in November 2005. This report notes areas of progress made in the past seven months to implement this multi-annual programme under the Economic Initiative and in other areas of transatlantic cooperation....

[EU – US Action Strategy for the Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights \(pdf\)](#)

June 2006

At the 2005 EU–US Summit, our Leaders agreed that:

“Growing global piracy and counterfeiting threatens the competitiveness of innovative industries, the livelihoods of creative artists and workers, and the health and safety of consumers in the European Union, the United States and beyond. We are committed to effectively combating piracy and counterfeiting at home and abroad” (2005 EU-US Economic Initiative) In order to implement this objective, the EU and the US have issued this Action Strategy for the Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights with concrete actions aimed at:

- Promoting strong and effective enforcement internally and at our borders;
- Strengthening cooperation to reduce global piracy and counterfeiting; and
- Fostering public-private partnerships to protect intellectual property. ...

[Joint Report on the Roadmap for EU-US Regulatory Cooperation \(pdf\)](#)

June 2006

At the June 2005 EU-US Summit, the United States and European Commission issued the Roadmap for EU-US Regulatory Cooperation to provide a framework for cooperation on a broad range of important horizontal and sectoral areas. Under this ongoing multi-year initiative, US and European authorities aim to build effective mechanisms to promote better quality regulation, minimize unnecessary regulatory divergences to facilitate transatlantic trade and investment and increase consumer confidence in the transatlantic market. This joint report highlights key Roadmap achievements over the past year and highlights some future work that the United States and the European Commission intend to advance in the coming year – both specific sectoral activities as well as horizontal initiatives. This work will evolve as each side continuously examines areas of mutual interest for regulatory cooperation, and considers input from interested transatlantic stakeholders. ...

[The New EU-US Cooperation Programme in Higher Education and Vocational Education and Training \(2006-2013\)](#)

The European Union and the United States of America are in the process of renewing the agreement on higher education and vocational training for another eight-year period (2006-2013). The new agreement will be signed on 21 June 2006 at the EU-US Summit in Vienna and it will renew and reinforce the long standing EU-US cooperation programme that was established in 1995. The programme is funded and managed jointly by the European Commission and by the US Department of Education. It aims primarily at promoting understanding between the peoples of the European Union and the United States of America and improving the quality of their human resource development. ...

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U.S. GOVERNMENT ITEMS

[U.S. Envoy Talks About World Cup, Diplomacy in Webchat](#)

Ambassador Timken cites improved U.S.-European relations

Washington File, June 26, 2006

Washington -- William R. Timken Jr., the U.S. ambassador to Germany, answered a variety of questions on topics ranging from the World Cup to diplomacy during the State Department's "Ask the Ambassador" interactive online forum June 26. ...

In response to a question, Timken said the relationship between Germany and the United States, as well as the broader trans-Atlantic relationship, "have improved considerably because of an increased emphasis on discussion and dialogue." He cited the "personal bond of friendship and trust" between President Bush and German Chancellor Angela Merkel as a key reason. ...

"A strong German-American partnership, standing at the center of a strong European-American partnership, is critical to face global threats and seize global opportunities to enhance our prosperity and security," Timken said....

[TRANSCRIPT OF WEBCHAT](#) with Ambassador Timken, June 26, 2006

[Review of European Security Issues](#)

Washington File, June 20, 2006

U.S.-EU summit; Guantanamo detainees; Council of Europe report on renditions; Montenegro; NATO in Afghanistan; Rumsfeld in Brussels; post-conflict civil-military planning; Balkan war criminals; Kosovo status talks; Turkey and PKK

[Quartet Statement](#)

Media Note, Office of the Spokesman/U.S. Department of State

Washington, D.C., June 17, 2006

Following is the text of a statement issued by the Quartet (United Nations, Russian Federation, The United States and European Union).

Begin Text:

Recalling its statements of January 30 and May 9, and mindful of the needs of the Palestinian people, the Quartet endorsed a European Union proposal for a temporary international mechanism, limited in scope and duration, which operates with full transparency and accountability. The mechanism facilitates needs-based assistance directly to the Palestinian people, including essential equipment, supplies, and support for health services, support for the uninterrupted supply of fuel and utilities, and basic needs allowances to poor Palestinians. The Quartet expressed its hope that other donors, international organizations, and the State of Israel would consider participation in this mechanism. ...

[American Muslims To Visit Europe in New Citizen Dialogue Project](#)

Four delegates to visit Germany, Netherlands, Denmark to discuss U.S. experiences

Washington File, June 16, 2006

Washington -- The United States and Europe are going through significant debates about immigration and integration right now, so "there is a lot we can learn from each other," says Mehdi Alhassani, 22, an American Muslim from Boston.

"Europe is a very critical fault line of the East and West," he said. "If you look at how fast [immigration is] growing in Europe, it's essential that we get this right."

Alhassani, the son of Iraqi immigrants, is one of four Muslim-American community leaders who embark June 17 for Europe to meet with hundreds of European Muslims in Berlin, The Hague, Netherlands, and Copenhagen, Denmark, as part of the Citizen Dialogue program of the U.S. State Department.

The five-day program is an effort to mobilize and amplify the voices of U.S. Muslims and Arab Americans, to encourage a cross-cultural dialogue and to advance diplomacy, according to Heidi Fincken, special adviser to Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy Karen Hughes. ...

[WTO Still Divided over Agricultural Tariffs, U.S. Negotiator Says](#)

USTR's Hafemeister rebuts criticism of U.S. proposal on domestic support

Washington File, June 16, 2006

Washington -- A deal on agricultural market access is still beyond reach with little time left for World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations, a U.S. trade official says. After a week of agriculture negotiations, Jason Hafemeister, deputy assistant U.S. trade representative, told reporters in Geneva June 16 that participants remain far apart over tariff cuts, exceptions for politically sensitive products and limits on temporary safeguards to restrict import surges.

"We're not there," Hafemeister said. "We still have some serious differences in this area of the negotiations." ...

[U.S. PERSPECTIVE ON ONGOING AGRICULTURAL NEGOTIATIONS](#) (pdf), Press Briefing with Jason Hafemeister, Deputy Assistant USTR, World Trade Organization Centre William Rappard, Geneva, June 16, 2006

Human Rights in Cuba Deteriorating, Says European Union

Number of political prisoners in Cuba said to be increasing

Washington File, June 13, 2006

Washington -- The European Union (EU) says it deplores what it calls "further deterioration" of the human rights situation in Cuba since June 2005.

In a June 12 statement, the EU's foreign ministers said that according to Cuban human rights organizations, the number of political prisoners in Cuba has risen in the last year to more than 330 documented cases. This figure includes several individuals detained without charge or trial since 2005.

In addition, the EU's ministers said, hundreds of young Cuban citizens have been detained and sentenced under a Cuban penal code that makes it unlawful to show the "propensity to commit a crime." ...

[COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS ON CUBA](#) (pdf), Council of the European Union, June 12, 2006

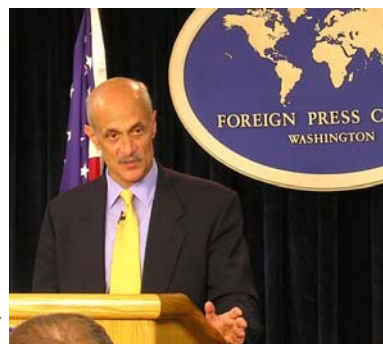
G8 Summit and Related Issues

Foreign Press Center Briefing with Michael Chertoff, Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security

Washington, D.C., June 9, 2006

...Secretary Chertoff: ... I am pleased to remind everybody that I'm going to be leaving for Europe next week as part of the G-8 Justice and Home Affairs ministerial conference, which is a prelude to the ultimate G-8 summit later in the summer. And our focus is going to be obviously on issues of mutual security and prosperity.

Among the things I anticipate we will be able to talk about among the countries are the issues of preparedness, including avian flu preparedness, combating human trafficking, adopting new technology for better explosive detection during aircraft boarding, enhancing security on other forms of transportation like subways and railroads, working to mitigate radicalization and recruitment, promoting cybersecurity, combating electronic financial crimes and crimes on the Internet, more effectively frustrating terrorist financing operations and working more closely on critical infrastructure protection and consequence management. . . .



United States, European Commission Renew Biotech Task Force

Consultative group scheduled to meet July 19-20 in Brussels, Belgium

Washington File, June 12, 2006

Washington -- The United State and European Commission (EC) renewed a consultative task force on biotechnology research in an agreement signed June 8 by John Marburger, director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, and Janez Potocnik, commissioner for science and research for the European Commission.

Established in 1990, the task force fosters open communication between the EC and U.S. agencies that conduct biotechnology research.

The task force will meet July 19-20 in Brussels, Belgium. It will be co-chaired by Kathie Olsen, deputy director of the U.S. National Science Foundation and Christian Patemann, EC director of biotechnology, agriculture and food research. ...

[U.S. and European Commission Renew Task Force on Biotechnology Research \(pdf\)](#), Fact sheet, Office of Science and Technology Policy, Executive Office of the President,
June 8, 2006

[EU's Proposed Chemical Rules Could Disrupt Trade, U.S. Envoy Says](#)

United States joins other nations in calling for improvements to REACH

Washington File, June 9, 2006

Washington -- U.S. reservations about the European Union's (EU's) proposed regulatory framework for chemical substances were expressed June 8 by U.S. Ambassador to the EU C. Boyden Gray.

Gray, speaking at an event in Brussels, Belgium, organized by the American Chamber of Commerce to the EU, expressed "serious concerns" about the workability of REACH -- the EU's proposed system for registration, evaluation and authorization of chemicals -- and its potentially disruptive effect on international trade.

[AMBASSADOR GRAY DISCUSSES EU'S REACH CHEMICALS PROPOSAL](#), American Chamber of Commerce to the European Union in Brussels, Brussels, Belgium,
June 8, 2006

[REACH REQUIRES FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS, ACCORDING TO EU TRADING PARTNERS](#), joint press statement on the EU's REACH chemicals proposal from the diplomatic missions of Australia, Brazil, Chile, India, Israel, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, Singapore, South Africa, Thailand and the United States, June 8, 2006

[European Report on Renditions Not Supported by Facts, Says U.S.](#)

State Department spokesman, legal adviser say report is based on inaccuracies

Washington File, June 8, 2006

Washington -- U.S. officials say that a Council of Europe report claiming that several European countries colluded with the United States in a network of international transfers and secret detentions is based on rumors and speculation and is not supported with facts.

The June 7 Council of Europe report is filled with "rumor, innuendo and inaccuracy," the State Department's senior legal adviser, John Bellinger, said during a June 7 interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation's Jonathan Beale.

"The tone of the report, citing a 'spider's web' of renditions, reads more like a supermarket journal than a serious report on human rights," Bellinger said. ...

[DAILY PRESS BRIEFING](#), Sean McCormack, Spokesman, U.S. Department of State, Washington, D.C., June 7, 2006

[Top Officials Meeting on Bird Flu Strategy in Vienna](#)

Two-day meeting will plan for avian influenza containment

Washington File, June 5, 2006

Washington -- A high-level meeting of officials involved in the International Partnership on Avian and Pandemic Influenza is being held in Vienna, Austria, June 6-7.

The government of Austria, on behalf of the European Union, hosts the meeting jointly with the United States.

The conference will involve experts in animal and human health from governments and major international organizations who are playing an important role in fighting the avian influenza pandemic, which has resulted in the deaths of more than 200 million birds through disease or destruction. ...

[OPENING REMARKS](#) to the Plenary Session of the International Partnership on Avian and Pandemic Influenza Senior Officials Meeting, Paula J. Dobriansky, Under Secretary for Democracy and Global Affairs, Vienna, Austria, June 7, 2006
[VIENNA SOM ON AVIAN AND HUMAN PANDEMIC INFLUENZA](#), Release, Austrian Federal Ministry for Foreign Affairs, June 2006

[VIENNA SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING ON AVIAN AND HUMAN PANDEMIC INFLUENZA -- DRAFT PROGRAMME](#) (pdf), Austrian Federal Ministry for Foreign Affairs, June 3, 2006

[Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000: Trafficking in Persons Report 2006](#)

Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons/U.S. Department of State

June 5, 2006

AUSTRIA (TIER 1)

Austria is a transit and destination country for women from Romania, Bulgaria, Russia, Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine, and some African countries trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation. The IOM estimates there are 7,000 foreign victims in Vienna alone. Victims are transited through Austria to Italy, France, and Spain. In 2005, 700 Roma girls from Bulgaria were identified in Vienna; these children were trafficked for purposes of forced petty theft and commercial sexual exploitation.

The Government of Austria fully complies with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking. Austria in January 2006 eliminated a "dancer" visa that had been used to traffic women into the country. The government's Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings worked to develop a National Action Plan. Although Austria has a commendable record on anti-trafficking efforts, the government should consider strengthening trafficking sentences and ensure that traffickers serve their prescribed time in prison. Police should also devote more resources to combat human trafficking. The government should consider expanding its prevention campaign to include demand reduction programs. ...

[Country Narratives – Countries A through G](#)

[Rice Gives Iran Weeks, not Months, To Decide on Nuclear Talks](#)

International community offers Iran incentives to abandon nuclear program

Washington File, June 2, 2006

Washington -- Iran has weeks, not months, to respond to the proposals from the international community to resolve the diplomatic impasse over Iran's nuclear activities, according to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

"[W]e can't wait for months while Iran again says on the one hand maybe they're interested in negotiating, on the other hand maybe they're not. They need to make a choice and the international community needs to know whether negotiation is a real option or not," Rice told reporters in Vienna, Austria, June 2.

The international community is putting forth a package of incentives and penalties aimed at persuading the Iranian government to suspend its uranium enrichment activities and return to negotiations about its nuclear program. ...

[INTERVIEW BY ANDREA MITCHELL OF NBC NEWS](#), Secretary Condoleezza Rice, Vienna, Austria, June 2, 2006

[INTERVIEW BY DAVID ENSOR OF CNN](#), Secretary Condoleezza Rice, Vienna, Austria, June 2, 2006

[INTERVIEW BY MICHELE KELEMAN OF NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO](#), Secretary Condoleezza Rice, Vienna, Austria, June 2, 2006

[INTERVIEW BY THALIA ASSURAS OF CBS NEWS](#), Secretary Condoleezza Rice, Vienna, Austria, June 2, 2006

[REMARKS BY R. NICHOLAS BURNS](#), Under Secretary for Political Affairs, Vienna, Austria, June 1, 2006



[Foreign Ministers Agree on Incentives, Penalties for Iran](#)

Call on Iran to suspend uranium enrichment, reprocessing activities

Washington File, June 1, 2006

Washington -- Foreign ministers from the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and Germany said June 1 that they are prepared to resume negotiations with Iran over its nuclear program and suspend further action in the Security Council if Iran agrees to halt its uranium enrichment and reprocessing activities.

If Iran rejects negotiations under these conditions, the ministers said they would take further steps in the council.

“There are two paths ahead. We urge Iran to take the positive path and to consider seriously our substantive proposals, which would bring significant benefits to Iran,” British Foreign Secretary Margaret Beckett announced at the conclusion of the ministerial meeting.

The six ministers met in Vienna, Austria, to discuss the details of a package of benefits and penalties they will present to the Iranian government in the hopes of convincing it to suspend its nuclear program and return to negotiations that collapsed after Iran abandoned a 14-month-old moratorium on enrichment activities in January. ...

[INTERVIEW WITH CBS EVENING NEWS](#), Secretary Condoleezza Rice, Washington, D.C., May 31, 2006

[INTERVIEW WITH MARGARET WARNER OF THE NEWS HOUR WITH JIM LEHRER](#), Secretary Condoleezza Rice, Washington, D.C., May 31, 2006

[INTERVIEW WITH WOLF BLITZER, CNN](#), Secretary Condoleezza Rice, Washington, D.C., May 31, 2006

[INTERVIEW ON ABC NIGHTLINE WITH TERRY MORAN](#), Secretary Condoleezza Rice, Washington, D.C., May 31, 2006

[INTERVIEW ON FOX NEWS THE O'REILLY FACTOR](#), Secretary Condoleezza Rice, Washington, D.C., May 31, 2006

[INTERVIEW ON NBC NIGHTLY NEWS WITH DAVID GREGORY](#), Secretary Condoleezza Rice, Washington, D.C., May 31, 2006

[United States Offers to Join European-Iranian Nuclear Talks](#)

Secretary Rice says move underscores U.S. commitment to diplomatic solution

Washington File, May 31, 2006

Washington --The United States has offered to join European-Iranian negotiations over Iran's nuclear program provided that Iran first suspend all uranium enrichment and reprocessing activities.

“[T]o underscore our commitment to a diplomatic solution and to enhance the prospects for success, as soon as Iran fully and verifiably suspends its enrichment and reprocessing activities, the United States will come to the table with our EU-3 colleagues [Britain, France and Germany] and meet with Iran's representatives,” Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice told reporters in Washington May 31.

The offer marks a shift in policy for the Bush administration, which had previously rejected direct discussions with Tehran on anything but the Iraqi security situation. Rice said, however, that the circumstances now justify Washington's direct involvement in the negotiations. ...

[STATEMENT BY SECRETARY OF STATE CONDOLEEZZA RICE](#), Washington, D.C., May 31, 2006

[PRESS CONFERENCE ON IRAN](#), Secretary Condoleezza Rice, Washington, D.C., May 31, 2006



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CRS REPORTS FOR CONGRESS

Congressional Research Service/ Library of Congress

[U.S.-European Union Trade Relations: Issues and Policy Challenges](#) (pdf)

Updated May 1, 2006

Major U.S.-EU trade challenges can be grouped into five categories: (1) complying with WTO rulings; (2) resolving longstanding trade disputes involving aerospace production subsidies and beef hormones; (3) dealing with different public concerns over new technologies and new industries; (4) fostering cooperative competition policies; and (5) strengthening the multilateral trading system.

[The United States and Europe: Current Issues](#) (pdf)

Updated April 6, 2006

The United States and Europe share a long and intertwined history. Despite the end of the Cold War, both sides of the Atlantic continue to face a common set of international concerns, have few other comparable partners, and share a huge economic relationship. Nevertheless, numerous foreign policy and trade conflicts have seriously challenged U.S.-European relations in recent years. This report examines the current state of the transatlantic relationship and key issues in Europe and beyond that have implications for U.S. interests.

[The European Union: Questions and Answers](#) (pdf)

Updated April 6, 2006

This report provides answers to key questions related to the European Union (EU). It describes the EU's evolution, its governing institutions, trade policy, and efforts to forge common foreign and defense policies. The report also addresses the EU-U.S. and EU-NATO relationships.

[The European Union in 2006 and Beyond](#) (pdf)

Updated April 6, 2006

The European Union (EU) has experienced significant changes over the last few years. The EU has enlarged from 15 to 25 members and has been working to implement a new constitutional treaty to institute internal reforms and further political integration. The EU has also taken steps toward developing a common foreign policy and defense arm. This report describes the current status of the EU's constitutional treaty, EU enlargement, the EU's evolving foreign and defense policies, and possible implications for U.S.-EU relations.

[European Union Enlargement](#) (pdf)

Updated April 6, 2006

On May 1, 2004, 10 states joined the European Union (EU), enlarging the Union to 25 members. The EU views the enlargement process as a historic opportunity to promote stability and prosperity in Europe. In addition to the 10 new members (Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, and Slovenia), Bulgaria and Romania hope to accede to the EU in 2007. Turkey and Croatia began accession negotiations in October 2005. Macedonia was named as a candidate for EU membership in December 2005.

[The European Union's Constitution](#) (pdf)

Updated April 6, 2006

In June 2004, the European Union (EU) concluded work on a constitutional treaty that contains changes to the EU's governing institutions and decision-making processes. Commonly referred to as the "constitution," this new treaty aims to institute internal reforms to enable a larger EU to operate effectively and prevent gridlock, but it must be ratified by all member states to enter into force. The future of the EU's constitution, however, has been thrown in doubt after French and Dutch voters rejected it in separate referenda in May and June 2005. This report provides background information on the constitution, its key provisions, the current crisis, and possible implications for U.S.-EU relations.

[The European Parliament](#) (pdf)

Updated March 30, 2006

The 732-member, directly-elected European Parliament (EP) is a key institution of the 25-member European Union (EU). Once limited to being a consultative assembly, the EP has accumulated more power over time. Currently, it plays a role in the EU's legislative and budgeting processes, and exercises general supervision over other EU bodies. The EP continues to face several challenges, however, especially in relation to its democratic legitimacy and operational costs. The most recent EP elections were held in June 2004.

[European Union Biofuels Policy and Agriculture: An Overview](#) (pdf)

March 16, 2006

Several different economic and environmental forces have converged in recent years to generate growing interest in alternate sources of energy, including biofuels, within the European Union (EU). The European Commission (EC) is using both legislation and formal directives to promote biofuel production and use within the EU. However, EU biofuel production is impeded by its

high production costs relative to fossil fuels. To date, the most important biofuel produced in the EU has been biodiesel with an 80% share of biofuel production in 2004. Bioethanol has accounted for the remainder. The major feedstock for EU biodiesel production is rapeseed oil, while bioethanol is generally produced using a combination of sugar beets and wheat. U.S. policymakers are closely watching EU biofuel developments, particularly for any successful policy choices that might work in the United States. In addition, both the production and use of biofuels have important long-run implications for EU agricultural production and trade. This report briefly introduces some of the more salient agricultural policies and issues related to EU biofuel production and use.

[Agricultural Biotechnology: The U.S.-EU Dispute](#) (pdf)

Updated March 10, 2006

In May 2003, the United States, Canada, and Argentina challenged in World Trade Organization (WTO) dispute settlement the European Union's (EU's) de facto moratorium on biotechnology product approvals in place since 1998. Although the EU effectively lifted the moratorium in May 2004 by approving a genetically engineered (GE) corn variety, the three complainants pursued the case, in part because a number of EU member states continue to block approved biotech products. The moratorium reportedly cost U.S. corn growers some \$300 million in exports to the EU annually. The EU moratorium, U.S. officials also contend, threatened other agricultural exports not only to the EU, but also to other parts of the world where the EU approach to regulating agricultural biotechnology is taking hold. The EU approach presumes that the products of biotechnology are inherently different from their conventional counterparts and should be more closely regulated. On February 7, 2006, the WTO dispute panel, in its interim confidential report, ruled that a moratorium had existed, that bans on EU-approved GE crops in six EU member countries violated WTO rules, and that the EU failed to ensure that its approval procedures were conducted without "undue delay." Other claims by the United States were rejected.

[European Union's Arms Embargo on China: Implications and Options for U.S. Policy](#) (pdf)

Updated January 26, 2006

Overall, there are two sets of questions for Congress in examining U.S. policy toward the fate of the EU's arms embargo on China. What are the implications for U.S. interests in trans-Atlantic relations and China? If U.S. interests are adversely affected, what are some options for Congress to discourage the EU from lifting its arms embargo on China and, if it is lifted, to protect U.S. national security interests in both Asia and Europe? Issues raised by these questions are the subject of this CRS Report.

[U.S.-EU Cooperation Against Terrorism](#) (pdf)

Updated January 24, 2006

The September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks gave new momentum to European Union (EU) initiatives to improve law enforcement cooperation against terrorism both among its 25 member states and with the United States. Washington has largely welcomed these efforts, recognizing that they may help root out terrorist cells and prevent future attacks. However, the United States and the EU continue to face several challenges as they seek to promote closer cooperation in the police, judicial, and border control fields. This report will be updated as needed.

[The United States and Europe: Possible Options for U.S. Policy](#) (pdf)

Updated January 23, 2006

This report assesses the present state of the U.S.-European relationship and the reasons for current frictions. To stimulate debate and for the purposes of analysis, it also offers a spectrum of possible options for U.S. policymakers in considering the future shape of the political and strategic dimensions of the transatlantic partnership.

[EU-U.S. Economic Ties: Framework, Scope, and Magnitude](#) (pdf)

Updated January 17, 2006

U.S. and EU policymakers will continually face the task of how to manage the increasingly complex bilateral economic relationship in ways that maximize benefits and keep frictions to a minimum. For Members of Congress it means weighing the benefits of greater economic integration against the costs to constituents in the context of overall U.S. national interests.

[NATO and the European Union](#) (pdf)

Updated January 3, 2006

This report addresses several questions central to the debate over European security and the future of the broader transatlantic relationship.

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MEDIA and THINK TANK ITEMS

(If you are interested in receiving any of the articles listed below, please contact arc@usembassy.at)

Brussels Unbound

By Jeffrey L. Cimbalo, *The National Interest*, Summer 2006

President Bush's recent visit to the European Commission (the first by a U.S. president) and his endorsement of a "strong Europe" were largely seen as signaling a new paradigm of American foreign policy towards Europe. Not only did the president distinguish himself from a New Europe-Old Europe mindset, he also suggested that on a variety of issues the United States would accept the apparent inevitability of European political union and increasingly conduct its foreign policy with the largely unaccountable bodies of the European Union. The Bush Administration is demonstrating that it believes a united Europe is not only desirable, but also possible.

The End of French Europe?

By Steven Philip Kramer, *Foreign Affairs*, July/August 2006

When French voters rejected the proposed EU constitution last year, they revealed a profound lack of confidence not just in Europe, but in France itself. Long the driver of European integration, Paris these days can barely steer its own ship of state. Jacques Chirac is a big part of the problem. But France's troubles run deeper.

Demographics, Religion, and the Future of Europe

By Philip Jenkins, *Orbis*, Summer 2006

Immigration and changing demographic trends mean that Europe will in the very near future inevitably be transformed, culturally and politically. As in the Cold War, it again represents a critical theater for rivalry, but this time it is between Christianity, Islam, and secularism. European nations will either be the sites of religious conflict and violence that sets Muslim minorities against secular states and Muslim communities against Christian neighbors, or it could become the birth place of a liberalized and modernized Islam that could in turn transform the religion worldwide. We urgently need to understand the developing contours of European religious beliefs and practices, and not just as they apply to Muslims, for the outcome of the rivalry there will have profound implications for the United States.

Europe's Identity Problem and the New Islamist War

By James Kurth, *Orbis*, Summer 2006

Fundamental transformations of identity within Europe have historically resulted in great wars, which in turn resulted in fundamental transformations of identity. This essay discusses, first, four great periods of war in Europe and the succession of identities they produced, and then the new war that Islamist terrorists, and Islamism more generally, have brought to Europe and the West. It considers the inherent weaknesses and failures of the now-dominant Western ideology and identity, liberalism, in dealing with this new war, and concludes with a consideration of the once-dominant Christian identity in Europe. That identity, much more than liberalism, would have strengthened Europe in its current war with Islamism.

[FULL TEXT](#) (pdf)

The U.S./EU Summit: Tensions in the Transatlantic Relationship

By Nile Gardiner, Ph.D., WebMemo #1136, The Heritage Foundation, June 20, 2006

President George W. Bush's June 21 Vienna summit with EU officials takes place amid mounting tension between Washington and Brussels over the U.S. detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, as well as the growing controversy in Europe over the 'rendition' of terror suspects, and will further illustrate the deep divisions between Washington and Brussels over the war on terrorism. The meeting will likely underscore the widening gulf between the United States and supranational institutions such as the European Union and the Council of Europe in their approach to dealing with the al-Qaeda threat.

[FULL TEXT](#)

Does Europe Have Something to Offer the World?

By Andrus Alber, Nicolas de Boisgrollier, Dimitris Kourkoumelis, Robert Micallef, Franz Stadler, *The Fletcher Forum of World Affairs*, Summer 2006

The international relevance of a small continent burdened with high unemployment and welfare-state economies that cannot cope with aging populations—a continent probably more popular with tourists than it is with investors—is not apparent at first glance, especially when juxtaposed with the rise of Asia. Nevertheless, Europe remains a perplexing, modern continent. From a political and institutional standpoint, this modernity is exemplified by the European Union (EU).

[FULL TEXT](#) (pdf)

Europe's Jihadist Dilemma

By Peter R. Neumann, *Survival*, Summer 2006

Various conditions have facilitated Europe's rise as a 'hub' of global jihad, especially the presence of a nucleus of foreign Islamist activists, a large pool of potential recruits, and the freedom to operate with few, if any, restrictions. The Iraq war has prompted a revival of the jihadist network in Europe. In response, European policymakers need legal reforms, increased institutional cooperation and sustained efforts to engage with European Muslim communities. The threat is both urgent and profound, and it will be necessary to embark on considered long-term strategies which may require European leaders to re-examine some of the tacit arrangements that have allowed European societies to enjoy an unparalleled degree of domestic freedom, peace and prosperity.

European Union Accession Dynamics and Democratization in Central and Eastern Europe: Past and Future Perspectives

By Geoffrey Pridham, *Government and Opposition*, June 2006

EU influence in encouraging and promoting democratic consolidation in Central and Eastern Europe has been extensive, though in a wide rather than deep sense. But, as shown by the enlargement process up to 2004, accession dynamics are the crucial force driving governments in the region to meet the EU's political conditionality. Despite the latter's deficiencies, it has by and large contributed towards democratic consolidation in the new member states notwithstanding some negative aspects of accession. The clear lesson for further enlargement in post-Communist Europe is that EU pressure and promise over integration will be decisive in new candidate states, even though their capacity to achieve the political conditions is more problematic. It follows too that any lessening of EU commitment is likely to undermine democratization efforts there.

America and the America-Haters

By Daniel Johnson, *Commentary*, June 2006

Since the United States was attacked five years ago, and despite a very brief interlude of sympathy for the lives lost on September 11, anti-Americanism has increased sharply around the world. A nadir was reached during the invasion of Iraq in 2003; since then, there has been only a slight recovery of favorable opinion, limited to some countries. Even in Britain, America's closest European ally, the proportion of those with a positive view of the United States fell from 83 percent in 2000 to 55 percent in 2005. Anti-Americanism is strongest in Muslim states—and also in Western Europe, even in countries that are longstanding NATO allies. It is most virulent among the young.

Brussels: Next Capital of the Balkans?

By James C. O'Brien, *The Washington Quarterly*, Summer 2006

We are in an Indian summer of European Union enlargement. Warm words of encouragement continue to flow from Brussels to Sarajevo, Belgrade, Zagreb, Tirana, and Skopje, but a freeze is

coming. As the Dutch and French “no” votes suggest, European populations have grown tired of grand European projects, including the EU’s expansion toward countries such as those of the western Balkans, which have religious, ethnic, cultural, and even imperial histories that diverge from northern Europe’s own heritage. For three to four years, the European Commission will continue to work with the countries of the western Balkans to prepare them for membership in the EU, even as popular skepticism about further expansion grows. At that point, a confrontation is likely: the European Commission will judge the first of these aspirants ready for membership. European leaders then will face a choice: live up to their own rhetoric in favor of enlargement or bow to the expectations of their publics by deciding against it.

[FULL TEXT](#) (pdf)

The Death of Enlargement

By Gideon Rachman, *The Washington Quarterly*, Summer 2006

For many years, European politicians could broadly be divided into two camps: deepeners and wideners. The deepeners, such as former head of the European Commission Jacques Delors and current Belgian prime minister Guy Verhofstadt, believed above all in pursuing the political integration of the European Union. Their aim was, as Verhofstadt writes frankly in the title of a recent book, to create a “United States of Europe.”¹ The wideners, epitomized by former British prime minister Margaret Thatcher (Delors’s arch enemy), were keen to expand the membership of the EU to include all the post-Communist countries of eastern and central Europe. They wanted to spread the political and economic benefits of EU membership as broadly as possible, but they were also often attracted to EU enlargement for other, more self-serving reasons. They believed that the larger the EU was, the more diverse it would become, and the more difficult it would be to achieve the deepeners’ goal of a united Europe. Gideon Rachman is business editor of the *Economist* and was its Brussels bureau chief from 2001 to 2005.

[FULL TEXT](#) (pdf)

Is Ukraine Part of Europe’s Future?

By Taras Kuzio, *The Washington Quarterly*, Summer 2006

From 1994 until 2004, under the two terms of President Leonid Kuchma, Ukraine’s relationship with the European Union was troubled. After the Orange Revolution in late 2004 initiated a democratic breakthrough, ushering in Viktor Yushchenko as Ukraine’s first reformist president, hopes were high that a corresponding breakthrough would occur in EU-Ukrainian relations. Yet, as time passed, such hopes proved unwarranted.

After his election in January 2005, Yushchenko soon announced “the end of multivectorism,” Kuchma’s shifting, incoherent, and ideologically vacuous foreign policy. Foreign Minister Borys Tarasyuk promised that Ukraine’s foreign policy would now be consistent and predictable¹ and would be coordinated by a united group that was ideologically committed to Ukraine’s Euro-Atlantic integration. The EU’s door, however, has remained closed to Ukraine.

[FULL TEXT](#) (pdf)

Turkey on the Brink

By Philip Gordon and Omer Taspinar, *The Washington Quarterly*, Summer 2006

“Who lost Turkey?” A complacent West could be forced to confront this previously unthinkable question within the next few years. This risk has little to do with Turkey’s alleged Islamic turn. On the contrary, the moderately Islamic Justice and Development Party (known by the Turkish acronym AKP) has done much more than previous Turkish governments to improve the country’s chances of joining the European Union. Today, the problem Turkey faces is not Islamization but rather a growing nationalist frustration with the United States and Europe. A majority of Turks still want to see their country firmly anchored in the West, but because of what they perceive as European double standards and the United States’ neglect of Turkish national security interests, their patience is wearing thin.

[FULL TEXT](#) (pdf)

Is the EU Destined to Fail?

By Charles Kupchan, *The Globalist*, June 16, 2006

Well beyond the current problems at Airbus, Europe is in trouble. While many U.S. analysts have long been critical of the European Union, that was not the case with Charles Kupchan, author of “The End of the American Era.” He has long been a courageous advocate for Europe. Now that he is changing his mind, it is time for Europeans to take a close look at their own troubles.

[FULL TEXT](#)

Europe's Two Culture Wars

By George Weigel, *Commentary*, May 2006

The second-"Culture War B"-is the struggle to define the nature of civil society, the meaning of tolerance and pluralism, and the limits of multiculturalism in an aging Europe whose below-replacement-level fertility rates have opened the door to rapidly growing and assertive Muslim populations. The movement's manifesto begins by briskly describing Europe's two culture wars, goes on to affirm Western civilization as "a source of universal and inalienable principles," and commits its signatories (who include a center-Right spread of Italian intellectual and political figures) to a broad agenda of renewal: to "deprive [terrorism] of every justification and support"; to integrate immigrants "in the name of shared values"; to support "the right to life from conception until natural death"; to dismantle unnecessary bureaucracy; to "affirm the value of the family as a natural partnership based on marriage"; to spread "liberty and democracy as universal values"; to maintain the institutional separation of church and state "without giving in to the secular temptation of relegating the religious dimension solely to the individual sphere"; and to promote a healthy pluralism in education.

The EU Services Directive: Nightmare or Opportunity? Implications for Transatlantic Business

By Klaus Günter Deutsch, Björn Frank and Martin Gornig, AICGS Policy Report #25, American Institute for Contemporary German Studies, May 2006

The EU Services Directive is likely to become Community law by the end of 2006, promising that, by the end of the decade, the EU will have a more deeply integrated market for services industries, allowing easier market access for companies, benefiting consumers, and enhancing economic growth. Many view the Directive as the litmus test of economic integration in an enlarged EU. Once implemented, the Directive should have a positive impact on transatlantic business, creating new trade and investment opportunities for U.S. firms and their EU-based subsidiaries.

[FULL TEXT](#) (pdf)

A Breather for the Alliance

By Bruce Stokes, *National Journal*, May 27, 2006

While acknowledging that U.S.-European relations have improved recently, the author suggests that U.S. policymakers are "ignoring the still-perilous state" of the trans-Atlantic alliance. He points out that "Anti-Americanism in Europe has never been stronger ... and people there share a rising sense that the war in Iraq has made the world a more dangerous place." In addition, he notes European support for the wider American-led war on terrorism is falling. Because of continuing policy disagreements, rising anti-Americanism, and the domestic political weakness of Bush, Blair, and Chirac, he expects "more oratory than substance" at the June 21 U.S.-European Union summit in Vienna. Stokes says that the Bush administration could improve relations by not gratuitously aggravating the situation by such things as Vice President Cheney's recent criticisms of Russia, by not reminding Europeans that the military option remains open regarding Iran, and by closing Guantanamo.

Europe's New Protectionism

By Stefan Schonberg, *The International Economy*, Spring 2006

The French against the Italians, the Spaniards against the Germans, the Poles against the Italians, Luxemburg against a Netherlands-based company, and in between the EU Commission. Europe is experiencing a wave of merger initiatives, and, at the same time, a wave of state intervention against market-driven, cross-border takeover bids. Schonberg examines the disturbing trend he calls Europe's new protectionism.

Job Redistribution à la Française

By Luther Carpenter, *Dissent*, Spring 2006

Everybody who matters—business federations, the business press, economists, conservative governments, Tony Blair, the *New York Times*—says that Europe (and especially France) has to "reform." "Reform" is a polite way of saying that somebody who isn't "everybody" ought to (has to) get less of something. Last year, unemployment insurance was that "something" in Germany.

French “reformers” have gone after every social benefit, including basic social security pensions and health insurance. Two particular targets have been early retirement and the thirty-five-hour work week, which are pillars of the French practice of job redistribution.

[FULL TEXT](#)

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AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT ITEMS

Press Releases

(for a complete listing of press releases please see: <http://www.eu2006.at/en/index.html>)

[Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the Middle East](#)

June 30, 2006

The European Union is extremely concerned about the situation which has evolved over the last days between Israel and the Palestinians and calls on all parties to abstain from any actions that are in violation of international law. It calls for the immediate and unconditional release of the kidnapped Israeli soldier. The European Union strongly condemns the murder of the Israeli victim of a kidnapping in the West Bank. It calls on the Palestinian leadership to bring an end to violence and terrorist activities, including the firing of rockets on Israeli territory. ...

[Finland takes over the EU Presidency on 1 July](#)

June 29, 2006

The Austrian EU Presidency ends on 30 June 2006. Finland then takes over the Presidency for the second half of 2006 from 1 July.

The address of the official Presidency website from 1 July is www.eu2006.fi.

The website of the Austrian Presidency will remain online until the end of 2008 but will cease to be updated from July. ...

[Plassnik: “The Middle East must not slide into a spiral of escalation”](#)

Foreign Minister and Council President Ursula Plassnik at a meeting of the G-8 in Moscow

June 29, 2006

Foreign Minister and Council President Ursula Plassnik today participated in a meeting of the foreign ministers of the G-8 countries in Moscow. At this meeting, that was primarily a preparation for the G-8 summit on 12 July in St. Petersburg, the foreign ministers considered a broad range of current foreign policy issues ranging from Africa, the Middle East and Afghanistan to North Korea.

At the centre of the discussion was the deterioration of the security situation in the Middle East. “The murder of the Israeli settler must clearly be condemned. Violence can never be the solution. But at the same time, we appeal to Israel to display extreme restraint in this difficult situation. It is a matter here of appropriate response”, Plassnik stressed. ...

[Plassnik: "Presidency a team effort"](#)

Foreign Minister reviews the Austrian Presidency

June 26, 2006

"Above all, we experienced the Presidency as a team effort", declared Foreign Minister Ursula Plassnik at the joint press conference with Austrian Chancellor Wolfgang Schüssel and Vice-Chancellor Hubert Gorbach to take stock of the Austrian Council Presidency.

"We have undertaken our work in the Presidency role with great dedication and skill and adopted a realistic approach", said Plassnik. One particular ambition was to work in a spirit of partnership, deliberately focusing on the citizen and the citizen's concerns and anxieties. "After the initial fright and the grieving, we got Europe moving again. Our aim was to restore the force and cohesion of the 25 Member States and to strengthen the European feeling of togetherness", declared Plassnik, referring to the issue of the Constitution and the debate on the future. ...

Plassnik: No softening of the ban on torture

Foreign Minister Plassnik on the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture and on human rights work during the Austrian Presidency

June 26, 2006

“The total proscription of torture must not be open to question, even in the fight against terrorism”, Foreign Minister Ursula Plassnik declared on the occasion of the ninth International Day in support of Victims of Torture. “The campaign against torture was a priority of the Austrian Presidency in the area of human rights, and we also took some concrete measures in that area.”

All over the world, many people still fall victim to cruel torture. A number of specific measures were taken during Austria’s Presidency to combat torture. “Whenever cases of torture came to light, EU diplomatic missions in the countries concerned immediately intervened. Moreover, more than 40 countries were called on to issue an invitation to the UN’s Special Rapporteur on Torture and to work together with the UN Committee against Torture”, Plassnik said.

Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture

June 26, 2006

Vienna, 26 June 2006 - On the occasion of the ninth United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture (26th June), the EU underlines the priority which it attaches to the global eradication of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and to the full rehabilitation of torture victims.

Torture is not only a tragedy for the victims - the direct and the indirect victims. Torture is also degrading and injuring to the minds of those who perpetrate torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and to societies, which tolerate such outrage. No culture of impunity is acceptable. ...

Bartenstein: Vienna is energy capital of Europe

Bartenstein and Piebalgs jointly inaugurate the Energy Community Secretariat in Vienna

June 26, 2006

Energy Minister and current EU President Martin Bartenstein and EU Energy Commissioner Andris Piebalgs inaugurated the Energy Community Secretariat in Vienna today. The Secretariat will support the countries of the Energy Community through the creation of a common energy market based on the European model. Slavtcho Neykov of Bulgaria has been appointed Director of the Secretariat.

“With the launching of the Secretariat, Vienna has become home to a third prominent international energy organisation, alongside OPEC and the IAEA”, said Bartenstein during the inauguration. “Austria will thereby become the main political energy hub of the EU, and Vienna the energy capital of Europe.” ...

Federal Chancellor Schüssel on the EU Presidency: joined-up thinking and action on a European level

June 26, 2006

The President in office of the European Council, Wolfgang Schüssel, Vice-Chancellor Hubert Gorbach, and EU Council President and Foreign Minister Ursula Plassnik reviewed Austria’s Presidency of the EU at a press conference today.

“Austria set out to give the EU new momentum during its Presidency. It will be for others to judge our work, but we can certainly say it was a real pleasure for us to hold the Presidency for six months and to work in close partnership with the Commission and Parliament“, Chancellor Wolfgang Schüssel said in his summing-up of the six-month EU Presidency.. ...

EU concerned about presence of Tehran Chief Prosecutor at UN Human Rights Council

June 26, 2006

Vienna, 26 June 2006 - The European Union noted with concern the inclusion of Tehran's Prosecutor General Saeed Mortazavi in the official delegation of Iran to the inaugural meeting of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva.

Mr. Mortazavi has been closely associated with some of the most worrying developments in the field of human rights in Iran in recent years, in particular concerning restrictions of freedom of

expression and the media as well as the death of the Iranian-Canadian photojournalist Zahra Kazemi while under detention by the Iranian authorities. The European Union conveyed these concerns to the Iranian delegation in Geneva. ...

EU welcomes proposals by the Iraqi government on "national reconciliation"

EU delegation led by Austria visits Baghdad

June 25, 2006

Baghdad, 25 June 2006 - The European Union welcomes proposals by Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri Kamil al-Maliki on "national reconciliation". The EU hopes that this process will result in a real reconciliation among the different peoples of Iraq, effectively stemming the daily violence in that country. The Union intends to continue its programme of support of the rule of law and the justice system in Iraq. It is also prepared to begin negotiations with Iraq on a trade and cooperation agreement. ...

Plassnik: "Extremists must not be allowed to destroy burgeoning hopes in the Middle East"

EU Presidency working on de-escalation

June 25, 2006

Vienna, 25 June 2006 - EU Council President and Foreign Minister Ursula Plassnik was today in contact with the Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni and the Palestinian President Mahmud Abbas concerning the attack by a group of Palestinian extremists on Israeli military personnel and the subsequent kidnapping of one of the soldiers.

"This latest aggravation of the security situation could jeopardise the efforts for internal Palestinian reconciliation and direct talks with Israel following the recent meeting between Prime Minister Olmert and President Abbas. Everything possible must therefore be done in order that the extremists do not once again destroy the burgeoning hopes of peace", Ursula Plassnik said. ...

Plassnik: "Important role of women in EU crisis management"

Unanimous decision by Main Committee on dispatching Austrian men and women trainers for Iraqi police and judicial experts

June 22, 2006

Vienna, 22 June 2006 - "Strengthening the role of women in international crisis management is an important concern of Austrian foreign policy. Therefore I am especially delighted that more than half of the Austrian trainers in the EU training mission for Iraqi judicial and police experts are women," said Foreign Minister Plassnik following today's agreement by all four parliamentary parties in the Parliament's Main Committee to an extension of Austrian participation in the EU mission to support the rule of law in Iraq. ...

Winkler: Europe needs an institutional framework fit for the future

State Secretary Hans Winkler at the Constitutional Affairs Committee of the European Parliament in Brussels

June 22, 2006

"Helping to shape and carry forward the development of the EU for six months as Presidency is an interesting and challenging task. A great deal depends on the willingness to work together effectively. Thus it was not always easy to find solutions, but our work together was always guided by the commitment to a common Europe and to Europe's citizens", State Secretary Hans Winkler said on Thursday in the Constitutional Affairs Committee, describing the working relationship with the European Parliament.

"The EU has doubtless come a long way in the last six months, whereby we have always considered it our duty to act as a facilitator for the solution of problems that cannot be solved by any one Member State on its own, as well as to strengthen the confidence of citizens in the European project and contribute to the development of a sense of identity with the Union", Winkler said. ...

Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the possible test launch of a missile by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

June 21, 2006

Vienna - On Sunday 18 June the EU Heads of Mission have conveyed to the DPRK authorities the following urgent message:
"The European Union understands that a test launch of a Taepodong 2 missile by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea may be imminent.
In the view of the European Union such a missile test would be deeply regrettable. Such a provocative act would add considerable tension to an already complex regional situation. It would breach the longstanding moratorium on long-range missile launches.
The European Union urges the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to refrain from such a launch." ...

Winkler: "We can only meet the challenges of the 21st century together"

State Secretary Hans Winkler at the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the European Parliament in Brussels

June 20, 2006

"The last six months of our Council Presidency have clearly shown what a potential the European Union has to meet the great foreign-policy challenges of the 21st century. To do this, however, we must all pull together and subordinate our national states to a European perspective. European foreign and security policy is in a better state today than it was a while ago. After countless storms, we have once again been able to create the spirit of community necessary to solve the great questions and problems. Foreign Minister Plassnik has been able, during these six months as Council President, to strengthen the unity of the EU Member States in the Council, in difficult questions such as the problems of Iran and the Middle East", said State Secretary Hans Winkler summing up the Austrian Council Presidency at the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the European Parliament. ...

Austria and Finland boost Competitiveness of EU Biotech in 2006 EU Presidencies meeting

June 20, 2006

EU Biotechnology Policy Round Table was co-organized today 20 June in Helsinki, Finland by the 2006 EU Presidencies Austria and Finland. It was the fourth in a series and brought together some 150 competent biotech competitiveness authorities from EU Member States, the European Commission and industry representatives.

Biotech is a core part of the knowledge based economy vision pictured by the EU Lisbon strategy for growth and jobs. Challenges such as global climate change and aging increase demands for biotechnology applications to deliver efficient and sustainable solutions in the near future.

The implementation of The Life Sciences and Biotechnology – a strategy for Europe adopted by the European Commission in 2002 is advancing. However, global competitors are moving ahead with high speed. It is still very hard for EU biotech companies to raise risk capital to finance expensive R&D efforts. The development of the regulatory system has progressed unevenly and with national differences. It is difficult to inform citizens interested in biosafety and biosecurity in understandable language about the many applications offered by modern biotechnology and about the scientific methods followed in approving products for the internal market. ...

Plassnik: Chance to turn over a new page in UN human rights work

Foreign Minister Ursula Plassnik at the inaugural session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva

June 19, 2006

The success of the UN Human Rights Council will be measured by our ability effectively to prevent events such as in Srebrenica or the Ruandan genocide in future, Foreign Minister Ursula Plassnik, President in office of the Council, declared on behalf of the EU at the opening of the inaugural session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva.

She stressed the international community's responsibility to provide timely, effective protection through this new UN institution to the potential victims of human rights violations. "Today we have the chance to turn over a new page in UN human rights work. It is our joint responsibility to ensure that the new Human Rights Council actually brings added value for those in need of our protection and our support. A great deal remains to be done. There is no room for complacency while individuals are not in possession of their full human rights", she said. ...

EU Agriculture Council secures funds for rural development from 2007 to 2013

Agreement on Fisheries Fund – WTO and flax as additional topics

June 19, 2006

Today, the EU Agriculture and Fisheries Ministers chaired by the Austrian Presidency determined the total amount of support for rural development and its apportionment in the 2007-2013 fiscal period. For the entire EU, the sum available for the second pillar of the common agricultural policy (CAP) is EUR 69.75 billion. "The farmers of Europe now have a clear perspective because funds have been made available. Now the Member States must formulate forward-looking programmes. After all, a successful second pillar must already look beyond the agricultural policy of the year 2013", said Council President Josef Pröll.

Of these funds, Austria will receive a total of EUR 3.5 billion. "This secures the basis for the environment programme, the programme for upland farmers and for boosting the competitiveness of Austrian farmers", continued Pröll. ...

Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on Uzbekistan

June 19, 2006

Vienna, 19 June 2006 - The EU takes note of the opportunity to attend the appeal trials against Mr. Sanjar Umarov, Ms. Nadira Khidoyatova and Mutabar Tojibaeva.

The EU has learned of the sentences pronounced against Mr. Umarov whose sentence was reduced from 10 and a half to 7 years and 8 months and against Ms. Khidoyatova whose sentence was reduced to 7 years suspended with a 3 years probationary period and her immediate release in return for financial compensation to the State.

The EU has also observed with concern the confirmation of the conviction of Ms. Tojibaeva and regrets that the call on the legal authorities for humanitarian principles has not lead to an alleviation of her sentence. ...

Plassnik: "Supporting Serbia on its European course"

Central theme of discussions between Foreign Ministers in Brussels

June 16, 2006

Council President and Foreign Minister Plassnik reported Thursday evening on the discussions of Foreign Ministers within the context of the European Council: "The Western Balkans is a priority of the Austrian Presidency in the area of external relations. At the General Affairs and External Relations Council at the beginning of this week, we adopted a series of very concrete steps, proving that the European perspective for the Balkan States is not just a pipe dream, but a tangible offer."

"For example, the first chapter of accession negotiations with Croatia has been closed, the Stabilisation and Association Agreement with Albania signed, and a decision taken to develop future relations with Montenegro as an independent and sovereign state", she explained. ...

Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the terrorist bombing in Sri Lanka

June 16, 2006

Vienna, 16 June 2006 - The European Union utterly condemns the most recent incidents of violence in Sri Lanka, in particular the bombing of a bus that caused the deaths of dozens of innocent people and injured many more. This abhorrent act of violence, which marks the bloodiest attack on civilians since the signing of the Ceasefire Agreement in 2002, is another clear violation of that Agreement.

The EU calls upon all parties to put an end to violence and to return to the negotiation table with a view to strengthening the immediate ceasefire and working towards a durable political solution of the conflict, so as to relieve the Sri Lankan people from the ordeal of twenty years of persistent conflict. ...

Plassnik: "Intricate web of relations between the EU and Israel"

Foreign Minister chairs EU-Israel Association Council

June 13, 2006

"Today's (sixth) EU-Israel Association Council has again made us aware of Europe's deep ties with Israel and our manifold and intricate web of relations", Foreign Minister and Council President Ursula Plassnik remarked after the meeting with her Israeli counterpart Tzipi Livni. "Our relations are characterised by solidarity and a willingness to lend our partner in the region our support; for instance, with the EU missions to reform the Palestinian security forces and

monitor the Rafah border crossing. We regard the Middle East as part of our immediate neighbourhood, the security and stability of which affect Europe directly”, said the Foreign Minister. ...

Plassnik: “Croatia – model for the Western Balkans”

Foreign Minister Ursula Plassnik at the first accession conference with Croatia

June 13, 2006

“Croatia has an important role model function for the other Western Balkan countries. This day shows us that the European perspective is not only something which is put on paper, but a concrete offer”, Foreign Minister and Council President Plassnik stated at the first accession conference with Croatia on 12 June 2006. Foreign Minister Grabar-Kitarovic represented Croatia at the conference where an agreement was reached on the opening and provisional finalisation of the negotiating chapter “Science and Research”, the first of a total of 35 negotiating chapters. ...

Plassnik: Warning sign for Turkey

Foreign Minister Ursula Plassnik at the first accession conference with Turkey

June 12, 2006

“Every long process begins with a first step”, Foreign Minister Plassnik, President of the Council, said on the occasion of the first accession conference with Turkey on 12 June 2006. The Turkish side was represented by Foreign Minister Abdullah Gül. At the conference, the EU and Turkey reached agreement on the provisional closure of the “Science and research” chapter, the first of a total of thirty five negotiating chapters, eight months after the start of the accession process in October 2005. ...

Foreign Minister Plassnik: EU wants to make substantial progress at UN conference on small arms and light weapons

500,000 people killed by these weapons every year

June 12, 2006

“The Presidency would like to make the best use it can of the forthcoming UN conference on small arms and light weapons in New York in order to make substantial progress”, Foreign Minister and Council President Ursula Plassnik declared today at the adoption of the first progress report on the implementation of the EU strategy against small arms and light weapons by the General Affairs and External Relations Council.

The Conference, which will be held from 26 June to 7 July in New York, is one of the priorities set by the Presidency in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation. It will present a first opportunity to examine the progress made in implementing the UN action programme against illegal trade in small arms and light weapons, adopted in 2001, and identify areas in which complementary initiatives may be taken to improve it. ...

Plassnik: "Milestone on Albania's road to European standards"

EU Stabilisation and Association Agreement with Albania signed

June 12, 2006

In the context of the meeting of EU foreign ministers in Luxembourg, Foreign Minister Ursula Plassnik as President of the Council, Commissioner Olli Rehn, the Albanian Prime Minister Sali Berisha and the representatives of all the EU Member States signed a Stabilisation and Association Agreement between the European Union and Albania.

"The signature of this agreement is a milestone on Albania's road to European standards. Its conclusion was first made possible by progress in Albania's democratisation process and on market reforms", Foreign Minister Plassnik said on the occasion of the signature. ...

Plassnik: Effective help from EU for human rights activists

EU decides measures to protect human rights defenders

June 12, 2006

“We pay tribute to the courage of human rights defenders. Their willingness to risk everything to protect the rights of others demands our full support”, said Foreign Minister and Council President Ursula Plassnik during the first review by the External Relations Council in Luxembourg of the implementation of EU policy on the protection of human rights defenders. Since June 2004, the protection of human rights defenders has been a declared priority theme of EU external policy on human rights issues. On the initiative of the Austrian Presidency, the

Council has now adopted a comprehensive set of recommendations. The measures contained therein, which are to be implemented by EU Member States, their embassies in third countries and the European Commission should, in cases of acute threat, enable effective EU intervention in favour of activists. ...

"Important signal in the fight against human trafficking"

Introduction of the ratification procedure for the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings by the Ministerial Council

June 8, 2006

Vienna, 8 June 2006 - Today, the Ministerial Council introduced the ratification procedure for the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings: "Trafficking in human beings and women in particular, including the forced prostitution connected with it, is one of the most terrible forms of international crime. All the states of Europe are affected by it, whether as country of origin, transit or destination. The swift implementation of this far-reaching Convention is therefore of special concern to me to in order to set a visible signal in the fight against human trafficking," said Plassnik. ...

Further steps forward in the EU-OPEC Energy Dialogue

The third meeting of the EU-OPEC Energy Dialogue took place in Brussels, Belgium, today.

June 7, 2006

The participants from the EU were: Mr Andris Piebalgs, European Commissioner for Energy; Dr Martin Bartenstein, President of the EU Energy Council, Minister of Economy and Labour of Austria; Mr Mauri Pekkarinen, Minister of Trade and Industry of Finland.

The participants from OPEC were: Dr Edmund Daukoru, President of the OPEC Conference, Minister of State for Petroleum Resources of Nigeria; Mr Mohamed Bin Dhaen Al Hamli, Alternate President of the OPEC Conference, Minister of Energy of the United Arab Emirates; Mr Mohammed S. Barkindo, Acting for the Secretary General of OPEC.

The EU and OPEC representatives welcomed the progress that had been made since the second meeting of the Energy Dialogue in Vienna on 2 December 2005. This included a Ministerial-level meeting between Dr Daukoru and Dr Bartenstein in Vienna on 1 February, shortly after Austria assumed the Presidency of the EU, and informal discussions between senior officials from the two groups at the World Economic Forum in Davos in January and the Tenth International Energy Forum (IEF) in Doha in April. The representatives expressed their appreciation for the constructive exchange of views on the important issue of energy demand and supply security at the Forum, and reiterated their support for the IEF as the main global platform for producer-consumer dialogue. ...

Plassnik: Special duty to protect children in armed conflicts

Adoption of child protection guidelines for civil and military EU missions

June 7, 2006

"In many conflicts all over the world, children are victims of brutal violence. They are kidnapped and forced to take part in fighting and acts of violence. They themselves are victims of murder, rape and mutilation. The situation with regard to girls is particularly precarious", said Foreign Minister Plassnik.

The protection of children in armed conflicts is a particular concern of Austrian foreign policy. During the Austrian Presidency, the EU has taken a number of practical measures to improve the protection of children in armed conflicts. The "child protection guidelines" for civil and military missions of the European Union adopted by the EU yesterday are an important step in this direction. Their aim is to ensure that the particularly critical situation of children in armed conflicts is taken into account in all phases of civil and military EU missions. ...

Winkler: Strategic partnership with China an important aspect of the EU's common foreign and security policy

State Secretary Hans Winkler at the EU-China strategic dialogue in Beijing

June 6, 2006

The second round of the EU's strategic dialogue with China took place in Beijing on 6 June, with State Secretary Hans Winkler in the chair. "The EU's strategic partnership with China is of great importance to cooperation on important political and economic matters. China's dynamic

development over the last few decades has without doubt also had an impact on the international system. This dialogue is important because it allows us to consider matters from a global perspective, looking beyond day-to-day political events. Our aim is to involve China, a responsible partner, on equal terms in our efforts to enhance peace and security in the world and to improve the living conditions of the people", Winkler said.. ...

[Plassnik: "ongoing close EU-US cooperation"](#)

Foreign Minister reports to EU Parliament on transatlantic relationship

June 1, 2006

"The EU has no other partner with which it has such a close and varied relationship. This is why a solid, sustainable transatlantic relationship is a central concern for each EU Presidency. We are indispensable partners for each other who bear global responsibility", Foreign Minister Ursula Plassnik said in the European Parliament in Brussels on 31 May. The plenary session of the European Parliament addressed the subjects of the transatlantic relationship and Guantánamo. Plassnik made reference to the close economic relationship and the ongoing cooperation with the US on international questions, such as Belarus and the Western Balkans. "Our cooperation on the presidential election in Belarus was positive. We both stood up for free and fair elections, and coordinated policy on imposing travel restrictions and targeted financial sanctions", said Plassnik. The US and the EU are also pursuing common goals in the Western Balkans. "We agree on the necessity of a European and a Euro-Atlantic perspective for the West Balkan states, and we are convinced that cooperation based on equality between the EU and NATO in the security policy area is essential", she stated. ...

[Plassnik: Iran should return to the negotiating table](#)

Foreign Minister met Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, UK Foreign Minister Margaret Beckett and High Representative Javier Solana

June 1, 2006

In the run-up to the EU-3 meeting (UK, France and Germany) with the USA, Russia and China in Vienna, Foreign Minister Ursula Plassnik, President of the Council, had talks on Thursday with her counterparts from the USA and the UK, Condoleezza Rice and Margaret Beckett, and High Representative Javier Solana. "We hope it will be possible today to finalise an offer from the international community that will enable Iran to return to the negotiating table. We are all working together on a diplomatic solution", Plassnik stated. ...



[Combating terrorism – Restrictive measures against certain persons and entities](#)

May 31, 2006

The Council of the European Union (EU) decided on 29 May 2006 to update the EU list of terrorist organisations and persons linked to terrorist activities so as to include on that list the LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam). The list was first adopted in December 2001, in the wake of the terrorist attacks on 11 September, and was last updated on 21 March 2006.

To this end, the Council adopted two acts:

- a Common Position updating Common Position 2001/931/CFSP on the application of specific measures to combat terrorism and repealing Common Position 2006/231/CFSP (published in the Official Journal of the EU, L82, 21 March 2006);
- a Decision implementing Regulation (EC) n°2580/2001 against certain persons and entities, and repealing Decision 2005/930/EC of 21 December 2005 (published in the Official Journal of the EU, L340, 23 December 2005). ...

[COUNCIL COMMON POSITION 2006/380/CFSP OF 29 MAY 2006](#) updating Common Position 2001/931/CFSP on the application of specific measures to combat terrorism and repealing Common Position 2006/231/CFSP (pdf), *Official Journal of the European Union*, May 31, 2006

[OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION](#), vol. 49, May 31, 2006

[Plassnik: First building blocks for new consensus on future of EU](#)

May 28, 2006

“The period of silence on the Constitutional Treaty has ended. Talks have got moving again. The state of shock prevailing in 2005 has given way to the resumption of a meaningful discussion. It was by no means always certain this would be the case”, Austria’s Foreign Minister Ursula Plassnik, current President of the Council of the EU, said on Sunday after the informal meeting of foreign ministers in Klosterneuburg.

“The sky is becoming brighter”, she said, describing the meeting. “The thunderclouds from last year are slowly clearing. I believe we have succeeded at the Klosterneuburg meeting in injecting fresh élan into the debate on the future of the EU.” ...

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EUROBAROMETER

(published by the European Commission:

http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/index_en.htm)

Eurobarometer 65

Public Opinion in the European Union, published July 2006

The current Standard Eurobarometer was carried out between 27 March and 1 May 2006.

This wave of the Standard Eurobarometer, Eurobarometer 65, reflects the public opinion of Europeans in an improving economic climate at a time of reflection and debate about the European Union.

Although confidence in the national economic situation remains feeble, with only 21% of European citizens expecting improvements in the year to come, the figures are less pessimistic than in autumn 2005. At that time, the majority view was that the economic situation in people’s country would get worse (39%). The proportion of Europeans with this negative expectation has gone down to 35% and the majority view now is that the economic situation will remain the same (38%).

The results from this latest survey show that the more favourable economic climate appears to have had a positive influence on the public’s perception of the European Union. Overall, life satisfaction remains high in the European Union with around eight out of ten citizens are satisfied with the life they lead (81%).

[FULL REPORT](#) (pdf)

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Government pages

- U.S. – EU/ U.S. Embassy website
http://www.usembassy.at/en/policy/us_eu.htm
- Western Europe/ Bureau of International Information Programs
http://usinfo.state.gov/eur/europe_eurasia/us_eu_relations.html
- Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs/ U.S. Department of State
<http://www.state.gov/p/eur/>

The Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, headed by Assistant Secretary Daniel Fried, implements U.S. foreign policy in Europe and Eurasia. The Bureau promotes U.S. interests in the region on issues such as national security, NATO enlargement, coordination with the European Union and other regional organizations, support for democracy, human rights, civil society, economic prosperity, the war on terrorism, and nonproliferation.

- European Union - <http://www.state.gov/p/eur/rt/eu/>
- Austrian Presidency of the Council of the EU -
<http://www.eu2006.at/en/index.html>
- The United States Mission to the European Union -
<http://useu.usmission.gov/>

- **Delegation of the European Commission to the USA -**
<http://www.eurunion.org/>
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http://europa.eu.int/comm/public_opinion/index_en.htm

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Selected U.S. media with EU section

- **The Washington Post**
International/ Europe: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/world/europe/index.html>
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- **EurActiv – EU Policy News and Links:** <http://www.euractiv.com/>
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